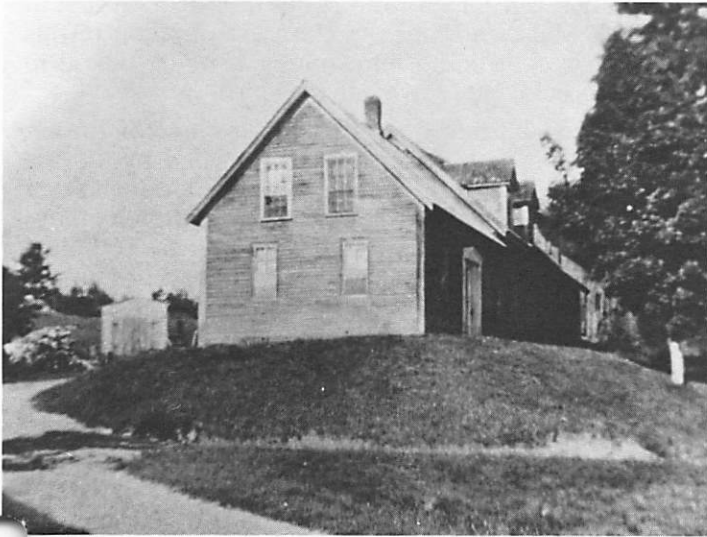


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BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Heath/Mundt house on the Grover Hill Road, ca. 1920.

GROVER HILL

By

Mary C. Keniston and Randall H. Bennett

This paper was presented at the Bethel Historical Society's November 1992 monthly meeting. It has been edited and expanded for publication in this newsletter. Readers may wish to refer to the 1858 or 1880 maps of Bethel, mentioned below, as an aid in following the list of settlement sites given in this article.

William B. Lapham's 1891 *History of Bethel* states: "In the west part of the town, Grover Hill, named for the early settlers there, has always been noted for its fine agriculture and also for its fruit culture." By the time of the 1858 wall *Map of Oxford County, Maine*, the Grover Hill area included a large number of prosperous farms on both sides of present-day Grover Hill Road.

Beginning at Bethel Hill village where Route 5 joins Mill Hill, the Grover Hill Road runs in a westerly direction until it intersects with a now-discontinued branch of the road that once led north to the "Steam Mill" section of Bethel and the so-called "Grover Hill Cemetery." The present Grover Hill Road then turns to the south where it skirts the eastern side of Sparrow Hawk Mountain, eventually crossing over the Portland Pipeline, and then turning west where it soon comes to the West Bethel Flat Road at the so-called "four corners." Because the section of the Grover Hill Road (now called "Annis Road") off Route 2 is no longer connected to the present Grover Hill Road, and because it is now more closely associated with the Steam

Mill settlement, it will be treated separately in another article.

The 1880 *Atlas of Oxford County, Maine* is also useful in studying the Grover Hill area. Like the 1858 map, the 1880 version shows the numerous farms and house sites, as well as the sites of two schoolhouses that functioned throughout the second half of the nineteenth century. In addition to several maps, including the current Bethel tax maps, some of the sources for this paper have included the Lapham *History of Bethel*, the Bethel *Centennial* booklet, local newspaper columns, a 1970 paper entitled "Grover Hill Memories" presented at a Society meeting by Gwendolyn Stearns, and interviews with several people with family connections to the Grover Hill area. Many hours were also spent at the Oxford County Registry of Deeds in an attempt to trace properties as far back as possible. Because of the limited space available for this article and the large number of sites to be covered, this paper will include only a brief history of each location.

Once commonly known as "Six Hills," the Grover Hill area was named for the family of early settler John Grover, who came to Bethel before the 1781 Indian Raid and was the man sent to Fryeburg for assistance after that now-famous event. Early references indicate that before 1800 much of the land adjoining the Grover Hill Road was owned by Grovers, including a few who resided closer to what is now West Bethel village. Compared to other parts of Bethel, especially East Bethel and Bethel Hill, Grover Hill has had much less attention paid to it by local historians. Perhaps if a comprehensive history of the town is someday published, updating and expanding upon the Lapham work, more can be said about this part of the community.

Near the eastern end of Grover Hill Road, where it joins Route 5 and Mill Hill, is a small trailer on the site of the Keith Davis home, which was destroyed by fire May 22, 1994. (What remained of the house after the fire was torn down and hauled away. Keith's dog died following the fire due to complications of smoke inhalation. His pet cat was also burned, but survived.) Bethel's tax records gave a date of 1887 for the two-story, seven-room, framed house, but the 1858 map of Bethel seems to indicate that this was the same residence as that occupied by a "J. Grover" in that year. Deeds for this property exist as far back as 1855, when Fanny Grover sold it to Pinckney Burnham, a prosperous Bethel Hill carriage manufacturer. Subsequent owners included Charles Grover, Porter Seavey, Hannibal Grover, and Catherine Chapman. At the time of the 1880 map of Bethel, Albion C. Chapman, a farmer and Civil War veteran, was residing here. Between Chapman's ownership and

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that of Keith, Robert and Pauline Davis in 1983, this house saw many owners, including Ellis G. Annis, Harrie and Lottie Inman, Harold and Marjorie Connors, and Jeffrey and Elaine Hutchins.

A short distance further west on the Grover Hill Road and also on the south side is the present home of Richard and Phyllis Blake. This manufactured home was placed on a cement slab, well back from the road, in 1974. The lot to the right of and in front of this mobile home was long occupied by a story-and-a-half house owned in 1858 by John Temple and his wife, Mehitable Brown Grover, the widow of Eli Grover, Jr. A member of the local militia, John Temple was killed by a falling tree in 1879. Like the former Davis house, this modest residence was frequently bought and sold as the years passed. Owners here have included Eben S. Kilborn, Ellery C. Park, Anson Long, Loren M. Glines, Grace Glines Stearns, and Everett and Jeordie Merrill, who purchased the property in October 1939. At the time of her death on October 30, 1989, Mrs. Merrill was living with her daughter, Phyllis Blake. The house was subsequently torn down and burned in the spring of 1990. Behind the old house, on the site of the present Blake home, was a small camp that was once the home of Jeordie Merrill's oldest son and wife, Stanley and Margaret Coolidge Merrill. They raised four daughters, Cheryl, Cathryn, Jeannine, and Donna, as well as Nancy and Jackie, Margaret's daughters by a previous marriage. Stanley was killed in an automobile accident on November 7, 1970. The camp was also taken down at the time the mobile home was moved on to the property.

Further up the hill, on the right-hand side of the road, is a gate blocking access to what was once known as the "Devil's Kitchen," a parcel of rock-strewn terrain most recently owned by the late Muriel Park Mason. A log cabin, which later burned, was once located near here. According to the *Bethel Citizen* of November 24, 1938, "This building was formerly located on the Peter Grover place on Paradise Hill. It was used for picnic parties and outings by Bethel Inn guests, and was a very popular resort. Last year [1937], with the development and improvement of the winter sports facilities by the Inn, the cabin was taken down and rebuilt here for the use of its skiing guests." In recent years, Gould Academy has utilized this twelve-acre parcel for cross-country skiing.

Further along on the left is the former residence of Lawrence and Edleen Winslow; it was constructed in the early 1950s for Elton R. and Marion Silver Coolidge by her father, Albert ("Pete") Silver, who was assisted by Elton. Deed research indicates that in 1902 this property was sold by Eben S. Kilborn to Franklin C. Bartlett "without buildings." That same deed stated that the site was bordered by "Grover pasture land." The dense growth of trees surrounding this residence today is typical of what has happened all along Grover Hill Road, as nineteenth century farms have been allowed to return to forest. In July 1941, Frank Bartlett sold the property to Herman and Grace Skillings, who lived in a camp that is no longer standing. In February 1950, Grace, Herman's widow, sold to the Coolidge family, mentioned above. The Winslows purchased the property from the Coolidges in September 1966. (The Coolidges moved to Andover, and Albert Silver lived with them; both he and his daughter are now deceased). The Winslows sold this property on September 30, 1994 to Uel and Susan Gardner of Bethel, and moved

on October 7, 1994 to another home west of Bethel Hill.

Beyond the former Winslow house the Grover Hill Road takes several fairly sharp turns as it makes its way further west, finally crossing "Meadow Brook" or "Cobblestone Brook," which flows north to Mill Brook through what was once referred to as the "Grover Meadow." Before Bethel's roads were plowed, this section of the Grover Hill Road would often suffer high snow drifts, and it was necessary for men to shovel a place wide enough for sleighs to pass through. Elizabeth "Libbie" Lyon Bane, one of only two people (the other is Arthur Whitman) residing on the Grover Hill Road who were born there, owns a number of historic photographs of the Grover Hill area, and has one which shows a large group of men attempting to open the road here after a heavy snow and high winds. In the photo are her father, Harry Lyon, and James Mundt, a brother to Ernest and Malcolm Mundt. A close examination of this photo reveals that liquid refreshment is being served to ward off the cold and rejuvenate the spirit!

Situated on a hillside above this meadow and on the left side of the road is a trailer currently owned by Martha Sweatt and her daughter, Linda Gordon Bonney, who rent it. The earliest discovered reference to this property dates from 1866, when a portion of it was sold by Hannibal Grover to Almon Grover. No mention of buildings here is made in deeds throughout many transfers over the next century. In 1971, Terry and Linda Gordon purchased the property from Albert Kimball; a deed recorded two years later makes mention of the present trailer and the five acres of land around it.

In the early 1980s the gambrel-roofed structure just beyond and on the left was a popular restaurant and lounge known as "The Pits." Built in 1978 by Eugene and Kay Brown, and owned since 1982 by Sherwood Jordan, the building is now rented to Patty Truman. This property has also been used recently as a tire dump and, previous to that, as a gravel pit. Many of the same names associated with the Martha Sweatt property, discussed above, were also involved with this thirty-three-acre parcel on the south side of the Grover Hill Road.

Standing further along on the Road is a house resembling a small Greek Temple; it was built a short distance west of "The Pits" in 1978. Owned by John and Inez Conzelman of Palm Springs, California, the house is occupied by John Carlson, the brother of Inez. The one-acre lot on which this building stands was once owned by David Grover, whose wife, Amelia, sold it to Arthur and Alice Buxton in March 1897. Later owners were Ella Bartlett and Albert Kimball, who sold to the Conzelmans in August 1975. A grist-mill stone, which formerly stood in front of this house, was one of a set discovered down behind the house near Meadow Brook. Though none of Bethel's nineteenth century maps show such a mill in operation here, a more thorough search for information may eventually provide some clues.

On the opposite side of the Grover Hill Road from the above three properties is the site of "Cobblestone Farm," a once-prosperous nineteenth century farmstead that no longer exists. Today, three modern homes occupy land once part of this farm.

Further east and opposite the Martha Sweatt trailer is the residence of Michael and Jean Waterhouse Monzo. This ranch house was built in 1968 on land sold to Michael and Jean by her mother, Alice Waterhouse, earlier that year.

Standing further west and owned today by Norris Waterhouse and his sister, Jean Monzo, is a one-story home built late in 1959 on the site of the old Cobblestone Farm residence, which was destroyed by fire that year. The *Bethel Citizen* of September 17, 1959, states, "The home of Mr. and Mrs. Cleve Waterhouse on Grover Hill was completely destroyed with all contents by fire. Mr. Waterhouse and his three year old grandson went nearly a mile to the home of Elton Coolidge to give the alarm. It is believed the fire started from an overheated chimney." This property also includes thirty-four acres that was once part of Cobblestone Farm.

A lot of less than one acre, west of the Norris Waterhouse residence, contains a mobile home, which was placed here in 1968. Today, this is the home of Lawrence Waterhouse.

The entire property that later became known as "Cobblestone Farm" may be the same as shown on the 1858 map of Bethel as owned by Samuel M. Andrews. Deed research reveals that in 1878 the property was purchased from Silas Wheeler by Dr. John A. Morton, a Civil War veteran who was a member of the Bethel G.A.R., the Odd Fellows, and Masons. In 1893, Ella Lyon, Libbie Bane's grandmother, bought the property, her husband, Abial Baxter Lyon, having died in 1886. Of this family, Gwen Stearns, long a Grover Hill resident, remarked, "The Lyons were witty, fun-loving people who were never afraid to tell jokes on themselves and on each other. An aged Aunt Ann, very proper and prim, lived with them, but the boys, with high glee, told how they had come upon her with her head bent over the fireplace so that the smoke from her pipe would go up the chimney."

Regarding the original Cobblestone Farm buildings, the Bethel Historical Society owns an interesting view of this farm (reproduced on page 120 of the 1991 book *Bethel, Maine: An Illustrated History*) which shows the building in which Alphonse and Eugene Van Den Kerckhoven operated a successful poultry business when they owned the property in 1900. Before the trees grew up, it was possible to see the chimney of the steam mill at Skillingston, as well as Puzzle Mountain in Newry, from this farm. The house, barn, and other outbuildings were sold back to the Morton family when the Vans moved to the Hill. Later owners of Cobblestone Farm have included James Heaward, Fred Wheeler, Almon Tyler, and the Waterhouse family. At the time of the 1959 fire, the barn was saved, but it was later taken down. The high windmill in front of the house was an unusual feature of this property for many years.

Though the Van family was instrumental in providing phone service for much of Bethel after the turn of the century, their involvement in the "Mason and Grover Hill Telephone and Telegraph Company" is not clear. (In the Society's collections is a 1909 stock certificate, taken out by Dr. Raymond R. Tibbetts.) Phone lines apparently extended throughout much of the Grover Hill area by 1914.

The so-called "Paine Road," which runs in a southerly direction off the Grover Hill Road, opposite the former Cobblestone Farm, dates back to at least the 1840s. The 1858 map of Bethel includes the Paine Road, as well as another road ("accepted by the town" in 1843) parallel to the Paine Road and also leading off the Grover Hill Road, only further west. In 1858, the south end of this second road ran to the farm of Silas Wheeler, this westernmost road was closed by town vote in 1862.

Going south on the Paine Road from its junction with

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

This issue features another article on local history; in this case, the history of the Grover Hill section of Bethel is skillfully detailed by Mary Keniston and Randy Bennett. These articles always require a great deal of research and the authors are to be complimented on the final product.

For over twenty years, the Society has been focusing on particular sections and streets of the town in order to gather and carefully preserve as much information as possible on the area's history. The usual procedure is for the research to be done by one or more volunteers; the paper is presented along with slides of both current and historical photographs at a Society monthly meeting. This forum often results in additional information, photographs, and/or artifacts coming to light. Revisions and additions are made to these papers prior to their finding a place in the *Courier* so that a permanent record is available to everyone interested, especially for those members who live out of State and cannot attend meetings on a regular basis.

Charles Raymond

the Grover Hill Road, the former site of the Jacob Bancroft farm is soon passed on the left. Now owned by William McLellan of Camden, Maine, this old farmstead has now returned to forest. Though the Bancroft family sold this parcel as early as 1863, deeds indicate that buildings remained on this site, not far from the Grover Hill Road, as recently as 1910. In 1878 the property came into the ownership of John A. Morton, and for many years thereafter it served as a sheep pasture for Cobblestone Farm. Owners in this century have included M. D. Sturtevant, Almon Tyler, Carroll and Mary L. Abbott, and Shirley and Marilyn Gilbert.

Since the Silas Wheeler property, mentioned above, was eventually added to a parcel on the west side of the Paine Road, something about its history may be of interest. The earliest reference to this site in deeds dates from 1849, when John Hibbard had his "homestead farm" here (the *Lapham History* indicates that the farm was there by 1843). In 1849 Hibbard sold to Edwin C. Coffin of Bethel who, in turn, sold to Silas G. Wheeler in 1853. Wheeler remained here only until 1860, at which time his land and buildings became the property of Almon Grover, whose own farmstead is shown just off the west side of the Paine Road on the 1880 map of Bethel. The son of Eli Grover and grandson of the early Bethel settler Deacon James Grover, Almon Grover lived in Newry and Albany before purchasing a hillside farm south of the Grover Hill Road. At his death in 1882, his son, Albert Grover, took over the farm. The *Oxford County Advertiser* of November 8, 1895, carried an interesting article about this property:

There was a pleasant family gathering at the residence of Albert B. Grover, Saturday, November 2nd, when the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, with a few other relatives, met to commemorate the 77th birthday of Mrs. Olive Wheeler Grover [Albert's mother]. Her children were all present on this occasion, save one son, Eugene, who resides in the far West, and an adopt-

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SOCIETY SALES DEPARTMENT

The Society maintains a selection of modestly priced gifts and historical publications. These may be ordered at the prices listed below. Maine residents should include 6% sales tax. Orders under \$10 should include \$1 for postage and handling; those over \$10 but under \$20 should include \$2 and all those over \$20 should include \$3 for postage and handling.

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Moses Mason House Tile | \$3.50 |
| Stationery (package of ten sheets and ten envelopes) | \$2 ea. |
| Moses Mason House | Bethel Railroad Station |
| Summer House | Bethel Covered Bridge |
| Booklets | |
| "Bethel's Broad Street" | 75¢ |
| "The Family Farm" | 75¢ |
| "Made in Bethel" | 75¢ |
| "Dr. Moses Mason and His House" | \$1 |
| "Molly Ockett" | \$2 |
| Maps and Atlases | |
| 1880 Map of Bethel Hill | \$2 |
| 1880 Map of Entire Town (Bethel) | \$2 |
| 1878 Bird's Eye View of Bethel Hill | \$1 |
| 1858 Atlas of Oxford County | \$7.50 |
| Tote Bag (Moses Mason Museum logo) | sm. \$7.50 lg. \$11.50 |
| Placemats, 4 Season (set of four) | \$7.50 |
| Books | |
| Carrie Wight, A HISTORY OF NEWRY | \$5 |
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| BETHEL, MAINE CEMETERIES | \$9.50 |
| Russell, INDIAN NEW ENGLAND BEFORE THE MAYFLOWER | \$15.95 |
| N.F. Little, AMERICAN DECORATIVE WALL PAINTING 1700-1850 | \$9.95 |
| R. Crosby, FROM AN OLD LEATHER TRUNK | \$5 |
| W.B. Lapham, HISTORY OF WOODSTOCK, MAINE | \$19.95 |
| THE WHITE MOUNTAINS: PLACE & PERCEPTIONS | \$9.95 |
| Holt, GRAND TRUNK LINES OF NEW ENGLAND | \$29.95 |
| D.B. Wight, WILD RIVER WILDERNESS | \$4 |
| Francis Parkman, THE GOULD ACADEMY STORY | \$7.50 |
| MAINE IN THE EARLY REPUBLIC | \$29.95 |
| Thomas Hubka, BIG HOUSE, LITTLE HOUSE, BACK HOUSE BARN: THE CONNECTED FARM BUILDINGS OF NEW ENGLAND | Paper \$22.95. Cloth \$35 |
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| R.H. Bennett, OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE | \$18 |
| William B. Lapham, HISTORY OF BETHEL, 1768-1890 | \$45 |
| F.W. Kilbourne, CHRONICLES OF THE WHITE MOUNTAINS | \$20 |
| N.T. True, HISTORY OF BETHEL | \$21 |
| T-Shirts | |
| Moses Mason Museum (Adult) (S,M,L,XL) | \$7 |
| Moses Mason Museum (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14) | \$6 |
| Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Adult) (S,M,L,XL) | \$7 |
| Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14) | \$6 |
| Post Cards: Dr. Mason, Agnes Mason, Moses Mason House | |
| | 10¢ ea. |

Members of the Bethel Historical Society are entitled to a 10% discount for purchases totaling \$10 or more. Please send orders to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217. They will be sent by return mail.

(Grover Hill, continued from page 3)

ed daughter, Mrs. Emma Barker of Portland. Mrs. Grover was the recipient of a nice spring rocker, a token of love and esteem from her children, grandchildren and great-granddaughter. Her brother, E. G. Wheeler, esquire, being unable to attend, sent a letter, a portion of which is as follows: "Anticipating the make-up of your company, accept this as the sentiment of my heart. The Wheelers and Grovers - for more than one hundred years - have walked side by side, arm in arm, with heart joined to heart along life's pathway, enjoying much of life. May the intellectual entertainment of the occasion be in earnest of the bright prospects of the century to come." Thirty-one partook of a bountiful picnic dinner, after which there were remarks, recitations, etc., and the reading of an original poem, composed and written for the occasion by Mrs. Arville Grover Wilson.

The *Advertiser* went on to print the above mentioned poem, which ran for fifty-two lines! Nearly a century later, only a large cellar hole remains to mark the site of this Grover family home which, in 1923, was owned by Fred Wheeler, who soon sold it to Edith Grover. In 1944, she sold the property to the late P. H. Chadbourne, who owned it when research was conducted in 1992.

Bethel's tax records indicate that near the former Almon Grover place, on the south side of the road leading to it from the Paine Road, is a fifty-four-acre parcel now owned by Lee Blake on which stands a small building constructed in 1972 and once used as a sap house. Though this structure was not located when photos of the Grover site were taken in 1992, the land is known to have been part of the old Mayberry property before being sold by Alton and Erwin Hutchinson to Ernest Blake in 1945. Lee Blake acquired the land and building from the heirs of his father, Ernest "Red" Blake, in 1980.

Located nearly opposite the former Bancroft property near the north end of the Paine Road is a site identified on the 1880 map as "C. H. Grover" and now owned by the P. H. Chadbourne Company. Deeds for this property, once the homestead farm of Charles H. Grover, date back at least to 1863, when Jacob Bancroft, then of Albany, Maine, sold land here to the brothers David M. and Hannibal D. Grover. Around 1900 this parcel became part of Cobblestone Farm, referred to earlier, and no evidence of the house remains.

Of the two sites remaining on the Paine Road, that marked "T. Maberry" in 1880 is now owned by Jacqueline Crouse Gammon, daughter of the late Earlon Crouse, who lived here until his recent death. The thick stands of pine and other trees on and around this property have taken over the pasture lands that provided open views to the surrounding mountains less than a century ago. A short distance to the south of the Crouse residence is a well-preserved cellar hole that marks the site of the old Mayberry home. Earlon Crouse filled in the adjacent barn foundation, though its outline can still be clearly seen. Thomas L. Mayberry of North Yarmouth, Maine, purchased this site from Franklin Cross in March 1847 and no doubt built his home on this spot soon afterwards. Gwen Stearns has much to say regarding the Mayberry family in her 1970 account, including this amusing anecdote:

Rachel Mayberry, Thomas's daughter, was a pio-

neer in women's wearing pants, although she wore men's trousers held up by "galluses." As a girl in her parents' home, she wore a long skirt over the pants, hitched up at the waist, and whenever her mother saw a stranger approaching, she'd yell, "Drop your blinds, Rache! Drop your blinds!" Rachel cut hay and hauled it into the barn, prepared a winter's supply of firewood, and, in general, did the heavy work of an active Maine farmer of that time.

In 1903 Rachel and Jenny Mayberry sold this property to their sister, Belle Hutchinson, with the stipulation that they be allowed to realize \$200 from the sale of timber on one-quarter of the land to pay for and erect a monument to their parents' memory. That gravestone was eventually purchased and placed in Woodland Cemetery, where it remains today. In 1945 Erwin and Alton C. Hutchinson sold the old Mayberry property to Ernest Blake, who, in 1946, sold it to Earlon Crouse.

At the southern end of the Paine Road are the ruins of the Paine house itself, which was probably erected soon after the property was purchased by Reuben L. Paine late in 1845. According to Gwen Stearns, Reuben Paine in later life somewhat resembled a Biblical prophet with long beard and bristling eyebrows. She also recalled that he had many cats, all of which had names and were allowed to eat from his plate at the table. After the Paines, many other people resided here. These have included Rachel Mayberry, John B. Abbott, Albert F. Cotton, and Edward Hall. At the time the house and land were sold to P. H. Chadbourne in 1956, this place was known as the "Burton Abbott Farm."

Returning to the Grover Hill Road and proceeding west, one soon arrives at the site of the former David M. Grover farmstead, indicated on the 1880 map near the road that once went north to the Steam Mill or Skillingston section of Bethel. Deeds reveal that a house existed here as early as 1848, when Silas Grover conveyed his "homestead farm" of one hundred acres to Robert A. Chapman, a speculator in local real estate and, in his day, the wealthiest man in Bethel. By all accounts, members of the Grover family continued to reside here until June of 1893, when fire destroyed the house and barn. Gwen Stearns wrote of this event, saying:

At the foot of the hill lived a brother and sister, Milton [David M.] and Amelia Grover. Their house was painted white and was quite pretentious for those days. When I was a small child, their buildings and all their livestock were lost in a fire. The stench from the unfortunate burned animals lingered in the air for days.

The foundations of this old Grover house have been partly destroyed by recent logging operations, and the site is now owned by the P. H. Chadbourne Company.

Born in 1831 on Grover Hill, Peter Wheeler, Jr., purchased a farm site high on the northeast slope of Sparrow Hawk Mountain from O'Neil Robinson of Waterford in 1858. Records show, however, that Wheeler had resided on this site for several years before buying it. In February 1893 he sold this property, perhaps because of his advancing age and its relatively isolated location, and moved down onto the main road to a spot west of the present home of Libbie Bane. Gwen Stearns said that, as his house was near the schoolhouse (see below), Peter Wheeler kept a "watchful, baleful eye" on the children at all times. She remem-



Barbara H. Honkala

MEMBER PROFILE

Barbara H. Honkala

Barbara Hastings Honkala was born in East Bethel, the daughter of William S. and Ruth Cole Hastings. She received her education at the East Bethel School, Gould Academy (Class of 1945), and the University of Maine (Class of 1949).

While climbing Mt. Washington, she met Rudi Honkala of Salisbury, NH, who worked on the summit at the Observatory. They were married in 1950. His weather work has taken them to Alaska, Maine, Montana, New Hampshire, back to Montana, and then Virginia. They are the parents of four grown children.

In 1965, while living in Montana, Barbara began working for the U.S. Forest Service as the first woman Biological Assistant at the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station. Subsequently her career with the Forest Management Research staff spanned 21 years with the last 14 served in the Forest Service's Washington, DC office.

In the fall of 1989, they changed their place of retirement from Tidewater, Virginia to the banks of the Androscoggin River in East Bethel.

Currently, she is a life member of the Society, a trustee, and a member of the Publications and Genealogical committees. She volunteers each week, helping the public with genealogical research.

Her hobbies include quilting, writing family history, canoeing, cross country skiing, and "shunpiking."

(Grover Hill)

bered him as a "short, squat old man with a wispy beard, so that he resembled the late Ho Chi Minh in looks and disposition." When he became upset, she recalled, "he hissed out angry words, all the time stamping up and down." In 1895 Peter Wheeler bought the present Libbie Bane property, shown in 1880 as "B. A. Lyon," which he retained until 1908. Peter Wheeler and his wife, Hattie,

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both died on March 1, 1909, when they were hit by a train near the former Albert Kimball house on Route 2 towards West Bethel. Today, their old homestead site on Sparrow Hawk, along with much surrounding acreage, is owned by Mary Wheeler of Bethel.

Proceeding in a southerly direction on the Grover Hill Road, one soon comes to the home of Barry and Claire Carver, built in 1986 on the east (left) side of the road. The nearby garage was constructed three years later. This fourteen-acre parcel was long used as pastureland, by many owners, until it was sold in 1975 by Herbert and Arlene Lyon to "AVA," a real estate group headed by Pat Early. This business subdivided a portion of the property in preparation for a housing development which never took place. AVA sold to Milford and Patricia Orndorff of College Park, Maryland, in 1980, and they sold to the Carvers in 1983.

On the right-hand side of the road, a short distance beyond the Carver residence, is the home of Elizabeth "Libbie" Lyon Bane, a log structure begun in 1948 and added to several times since then. This property, which includes nearly one hundred and forty acres on both sides of the road, is unique, having been in the same family's hands since 1835 except for a brief period at the turn of the century. Through this time, four houses, including the present one, have occupied the spot where Libbie Bane now lives. The first, a two-story residence that closely resembled the Dr. Moses Mason house in form, was the home of the families of Baxter Lyon and his wife, Sarah, and their son, Baxter Abial Lyon and his wife, Levina. A painting of this first house, done by Gwen Stearns, is owned by Society member Bobby Kuzyk. This house was destroyed by fire sometime between 1880 and 1890, and the family of Abial Baxter Lyon, Baxter A. Lyon's son and Libbie's grandfather, built a second house here in which Libbie was born. An 1895 deed states that Ella F. Lyon, the widow of Abial, sold this property to Peter Wheeler, who was mentioned above as having once owned this site. In 1908 Guy L. Thurston bought from Wheeler, and in May 1914 Harry A. and Mildred Hapgood Lyon, Libbie's parents, who then lived at Auburn, bought the property, returning it to Lyon family ownership.

Old photographs of the Lyon property show orchards (mostly planted by Harry Lyon) across from the house that have now been abandoned. Before the trees grew up there were also good views to be had of the mountains to the east and south. Nearly opposite the house was a large barn, which Libbie Bane states fell into disrepair and was finally taken down. Around 1923 the second house also burned; soon afterwards, Herb Swan built a third house, a large Bungalow type, for the reported sum of \$1500. The Harry Lyon family was residing in the present Pat Bennett house on Paradise Road when this house was destroyed by a chimney fire in 1928 or 1929. Thereafter the site remained vacant until the present house was begun by Clayton Bane and Harry Lyon in 1948. In 1965 Harry Lyon transferred the property to Clayton and Libbie Bane.

Directly across the road, and nearly hidden by trees, is the seasonal home of Joseph Hosmer of Scarborough, Maine. The 5.6 acres on which this log and frame house is situated was deeded to Douglas and Susanne Bane from Clayton and Libbie Bane in 1974. The house had been



Sally Taylor, head of the Society's Preservation Committee, presents the 1994 Bethel Historical Society Preservation Award to Susan Foster Hamill while her daughters look on. The Foster Homestead at Sunday River (Newry) has been maintained by several generations of Fosters and is an outstanding example of historic preservation in the Bethel Area.

(Grover Hill)

started a year earlier. Having moved to Palmyra, Maine, Doug and Sue Bane sold to the present owner in 1987.

One of two schools that once stood on the Grover Hill Road was formerly located on the west side of the road, a hundred yards south of the Bane and Hosmer houses. Though no photo of this school was uncovered during this research, it was probably a modest one-room building similar in appearance to several surviving nineteenth century schools. Research into the origin and history of this schoolhouse was made all the more difficult because three different Bethel maps show it in three locations, though all were situated in the same immediate area. Since the recollections of older Grover Hill residents place the building on the right-hand side of the road below Libbie Bane's home, we will leave the matter there for the present.

Bethel's district school records, recently turned over to the Society, provide some interesting clues to the story of this Grover Hill schoolhouse, which was listed as "District Number 24." A school existed in this vicinity in the 1820s and by 1835 had forty-one "scholars." In the earliest entries in the records, this school district was identified with the name of a local farmer, quite often the same man who boarded the teacher and provided wood for the schoolhouse. For example, in 1837 this was known as the "Otis Grover district." The first reference labeling this the "Grover Hill" school was made in 1839. Payment for teachers usually amounted to only a few dollars per term (spring, summer, fall, and winter), and the names of those teaching, both men and women, changed frequently. After the Civil War, notations for repairs to the schoolhouse appear more frequently, though no references exist to explain when and if the schoolhouse was actually moved, as the maps, cited above, suggest. And while it is also unclear when this school disappeared, Gwen Stearns

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recalled the many lyceums, debates, hymn sings, and spelling matches that took place here. The official records, which run from the 1820s to the late 1880s, indicate that the largest number of students here was sixty-seven in 1850/1851 and 1851/1852, while the smallest number was fourteen in 1878/1879 and 1881/1882. Teachers here included Mrs. Fritz Tyler and Alice Russell Rowe, mother of Society Charter Member Rosalind Rowe Chapman.

Standing further along the road on its east side is a small cottage erected in 1950 and now owned by Charles Kingman of Somerville, New Jersey. This was formerly known as the Pingree or Peaslee place. Clayton Bane has told how the old Peaslee house was struck by lightning and burned, and this fact is confirmed in Gwen Stearns' writings about Grover Hill. The oldest deed uncovered for this property dates to September 12, 1856, when Clark S. Edwards sold land to Jacob L. Paine. The first reference to buildings here appears in February of 1860, when Gilman Blake sold the place to Clement Seavey Heath. Thereafter, many names were connected with this property, including David Hammons, Alvin Ordway, Orrington and Lawson W. Pingree, Albert B. Grover, Alfred J. Peaslee, John H. Grant, W. R. Moore, and Theodore Mundy, who sold to the present owner in 1959.

The Grover Hill Road runs uphill and in an almost straight line due south from the Kingman place for quite a distance, affording fine views back towards the northern part of Bethel. Libbie Bane tells that it wasn't until about 1964 that much of this part of the road was tarred, though a good part of it further on remains unpaved. The first house south of the Kingman property is a small cottage built around 1950 by Warren and Eleanor Lyon Bean on the west side of the road. Today, the property is owned by Samuel and Elizabeth Otis of Wenham, Massachusetts. A deed recorded on December 18, 1908, conveyed "all that part of the Andrew Stiles [later True Brown] farm on the westerly side of Grover Hill Road," from Ellery C. Park to Freeland Bennett. The twenty-acre parcel subsequently passed from Bennett to Marion Tyler, Warren Bean, Eugene Van Den Kerckhoven, Alanson Noble, Chester Dalrymple, and to Samuel Otis, who bought it in 1970.

Standing at the end of a long drive on the opposite side of the road is one of only six houses on the Grover Hill Road that can be accurately dated to before 1900. Now the home of Al and Lee Barth, this interesting old house has been much remodeled and refurbished in recent years. The earliest deed found for this property dates to May 1839, which is probably about the time the house was begun. At that time, Jedediah Grover sold one hundred and five acres "more or less" to Andrew Stiles, who was from Nelson, New Hampshire, but who was already related to several Bethel families when he arrived in town. The house remained in the Stiles family until 1861, when Clement Seavey Heath (see above), later the toll taker at the Androscoggin River covered bridge, purchased it. In 1886, Isaac S. Whitney bought the property; his name at this location on the 1880 map of Bethel seems to suggest that he rented the place for several years before purchasing it. After the Whitneys, the family of Walter M. Brown (Mary Keniston's great-grandfather) resided here. The Browns had a large family, and many descendants still reside in Bethel today. True Brown was the last of Walter's sons to live on the home place until he died. He never married, but his brothers' families visited him and cared for him in his last days. During visits in the late 1920s and

early 1930s, True Brown's young nieces and nephews ran and played in the beautiful open fields, and often searched for berries, apples, and flowers. June Greig, another of Walter Brown's great-grandchildren, says she recalled such activities on the family farm. The property passed to Arnol K. Brown, and Norman and June Brown Greig in 1974 and eventually to the late Jane Greig Barth in 1979. Today, the views of the open field and old apple trees from the south-facing front of the house serve as a reminder of this home's early days as a productive farm.

Returning to the Grover Hill Road and traveling only a short distance south, one encounters an old, discontinued road on the east (left) side that in 1880 led to the homestead farm of "J. B. Peaslee." Only a cellar hole remains on what is now a 120-acre tract owned by Boise Cascade. This place was a "side-hill, but sightly" farm in its heyday, according to Gwen Stearns. At the time of the 1850 federal census, Samuel and Mary Heselton resided here. An 1863 deed records the property's purchase by John B. Peaslee, who remained here until 1900. The place was later owned by Eben S. Kilborn, Edwin and Asa Smith, and Dr. Isaac H. Wight, who bought it in 1931. His daughter, Vivian Wight Mortinson, sold it to Elmer Trask in 1949, and his heirs sold to the Oxford Paper Company, now Boise, in 1966.

The former home of Gwen Stearns, situated on a hillside above the Grover Hill Road, is now owned by Stephen and Louise Lovejoy of Wallkill, New York. This well-preserved nineteenth century house was once at the center of an active farm which included a large barn and outbuildings, apple orchards, a small brickyard, and extensive acreage for growing hops. A teacher at Bethel's brick Grammar School, Gwen Stearns spoke fondly of her childhood on Grover Hill in a program given for the Society many years ago. She and her brother, Karl, were well known to the Society's older members before their deaths in 1983 and 1977, respectively.

The former Stearns place's origins can be traced back to the 1840s, when certain deeds list it as the "homestead farm of Nathan Eames." The property was owned briefly in the early 1860s by Daniel B. Grover, who sold it to Thomas Stearns (Gwen Stearns' grandfather) of Newry, in March 1863. It remained in the Stearns family until 1956, at which time it was acquired by Edwin C. Lovejoy of Poland, Maine, whose family still owns the property, now consisting of forty acres on both sides of the road. In 1993 much of the land across from the house was cleared of trees, making it possible again to see the mountain views that were there in the nineteenth century.

The home of Herbert Lyon, Libbie Bane's brother, was built just beyond and on the opposite (east) side of the road in 1980 in a spot that affords some of the best scenic views of any place along the Grover Hill Road. South of the house is a ten-acre orchard in which Herbert carries on the long-standing tradition of apple-growing in this part of Bethel. The remaining eleven acres on this side of the road, and some two hundred acres on the west side, were once part of the farm of Tilton Bennett.

Standing nearly across the road from the Lyon house, the former Tilton Bennett residence is today owned by Annie Trefethen of Newington, New Hampshire. Though extensively remodeled, this house of circa 1850 has had an interesting history. This property, which originally included Herbert Lyon's present land holdings, first appears in a

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deed of 1839, when Clement Seavey sold it to William Stevens of Waterford. Stevens sold to Tilton Bennett and his wife, Abiah Bean, for \$20. in 1850, and it was they who probably erected the house that stands on the site today. The property passed to Tilton's son, Freeland Bennett, in 1878, and eventually to Marion Tyler, Freeland's daughter, in 1906. The Tylers resided here for many years, and the farm later passed to Ernest and Mary Cragin in 1950. They sold the house and surrounding acreage to Herbert and Arlene Lyon in 1953, and they, in turn, sold to the Trefethen family in 1962. Only a little over one acre remains with the house from the original Bennett farm.

Just beyond the Trefethen house, and overlooking an open field from atop a steep hillside on the eastern edge of the road, is a modern home built in 1974 by Stephen and Lynda Chandler. In 1972 the Chandlers bought 4.2 acres on the east side of Grover Hill Road and six acres on the west side from Herbert and Arlene Lyon. The Chandlers built a small garage across the road from the house around 1980.

What is probably the oldest house remaining on the Grover Hill Road stands further south on the west side of the road. Dating into the early 1830s and possibly earlier, this is now the home of Allan and Donna Grover Remington. For well over a century this property, which, like other Grover Hill farms, once included meadow lots nearby, remained in the hands of the Whitman family. Arthur Whitman, who lives across the road, is a descendant of Learned Whitman, who came here from Woodstock, Maine, soon after 1830. By the time of the 1858 map of Bethel, this farm was listed under the name of Albert L. Whitman, Learned's son; the 1880 map carries the same name. Gwen Stearns recalled in 1970 that the hill which runs from just below here to the Tilton Bennett place, previously mentioned, was long known by the name "Whitman Hill," after this family. In 1942 Robert and Marion Whitman sold to James M. Goodrich of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Later owners of the house and much of the original acreage have included Malcolm and Virginia Mundt, Clayton A. Mills, John and Christine Grover, and the Remingtons. The barn above the house was built by the Remingtons in 1985.

On the opposite side of the road are two log houses. That furthest north was built by Arthur Whitman in 1957, and is today owned by Roger Swain of Wolcott, Connecticut. The land on which it stands is leased from Arthur Whitman. Slightly below is the present home of Arthur Whitman and his wife. Erected in 1975, this log house stands on part of a 106-acre tract that was the homestead farm of Levi Bartlett in the late nineteenth century. The old Bartlett house, which still exists at the foot of the hill, and the farm acreage around Arthur's house, were acquired by Albert L. Whitman, Arthur's grandfather, in 1905. Arthur's father, Clyde, received the property in 1926, and Arthur Whitman and Paul Vik acquired it in 1958. Arthur is the youngest son of Clyde Whitman, and left Bethel after graduating from Gould; he lived for many years in Connecticut before retiring back to Bethel.

The wide-gabled house below Arthur Whitman's home was probably built in the early 1850s by Elijah Harding, who came to Bethel in the 1830s from Danville, Maine. Deed research confirms that the Harding family remained here into the 1860s. Soon thereafter, this property, which

then included Arthur Whitman's present holdings, came into the hands of Walter M. Brown, previously mentioned in connection with the Barth residence. In 1873 the former Harding place was referred to in deeds as "Brown's homestead farm" when it was purchased by Levi Bartlett, a veteran of the Civil War. Bartlett married Rowena, daughter of Learned Whitman, and they had three daughters and one son; the eldest daughter, Grace, became the late Mrs. Fritz Tyler. The Whitman family acquired the property in 1905, as already stated, and in 1987 Arthur Whitman and Gertrude Vik sold the house and two acres of land to John and Ethel MacMunn. Current owners of this old Grover Hill property are James and Julia Reuter, who bought the place from the MacMunns a little more than a year ago.

South of the old Bartlett house the pavement ends and the Grover Hill Road narrows. Not far beyond this point and on the right, two side roads provide access to new houses. The first road leads to a modern home built in 1989 by David and Judith Perry of Kennebunk, Maine on two acres of land purchased from Donna Remington. The second road goes to a house built during the summer of 1993 by Rick and Patty Dow on land also purchased from Donna Remington.

In this general vicinity, over a hundred years ago, stood Bethel's "District 28" schoolhouse. Until just recently, almost nothing was known of this school, which disappeared many years ago. Despite the fact that the building does not appear on the 1858 map of the town, Bethel's official district school records note that six scholars attended here in 1855. The largest number of students here at any one time seems to have been twenty-two in 1859; only five students were recorded for the year 1886, a decline that can be explained, in part, by a general lack of younger families in the neighborhood after the Civil War. Among those who were early teachers here and listed in the district school records were Fannie Bean, Caroline Grover, Sarah Russell, and Jonathan R. Heath (Randall Bennett's great-great-grandfather). Those who were paid by the town to board the teachers included Elijah Harding, Walter M. Brown, Levi Bartlett, Albert Whitman, and Josiah Heath, the late Emeline Heath's grandfather. Among the purchases on record was \$4.50 for a stove for the school in 1860. Gwen Stearns recalled this school being painted red, as was the one previously mentioned, near Libbie Bane's house. Arthur Whitman states that his father attended school here, though the building was gone when Arthur was growing up.

Not far beyond the schoolhouse site, the Grover Hill Road crosses over the Portland Pipeline, which was constructed in 1941. A short distance east on the Pipeline right-of-way, and on the left-hand side, is a small camp on a one-and-a-half acre lot currently owned by Dwight and Emerson Merrill, and Lawrence Davis. This property is part of the former Prescott Bennett farm, the history of which is given below.

On the opposite (right-hand) side of the Pipeline clearing, and in the woods between it and an old, abandoned road that once led to Albany, is a small cellar hole marking the homesite of Clement Seavey, Sr., who resided here several years prior to his death in 1844. Early deeds to this site are vague, but Seavey (another of Randall Bennett's ancestors) is known to have moved from southern New Hampshire to Gilead by 1807, and to Bethel around 1823. His home near the Grover Hill Road was supplied from a well that still exists in a state of decay near the cellar hole.



Society member Annie Hastings (left) poses beside the Coomb's painting of Kendall Ferry, which has been in her family for years, with Genetta McLean, Director of the Bates College Museum of Art. Dr. McLean was the featured speaker on Coombs at the Society's August meeting.

(Grover Hill)

Seavey's property was purchased by his son-in-law, Tilton B. Heath, in 1847, and Heath sold to Clement Seavey, Jr., in 1852. By the time of the 1880 map, Charles L. Murphy was residing here. The property was listed as "vacant" on a Bethel map of 1911, and the house was presumably gone by the time the Pipeline was built. This old housesite and 270 adjoining acres are today owned by O'Neil T. Mills of West Paris.

The Bethel Historical Society's collections include a 1930 postcard view identified several years ago by the late Albert Skillings as being the last house in Bethel on the now-abandoned road which runs near the Pipeline from the Grover Hill Road east into Albany. Known for many years as the Prescott Bennett place, this connected farmstead stood directly in the path of the Portland Pipeline, though the exact date of its disappearance is unknown at this time. Deeds from the present time back into the 1830s have been uncovered for this property. Apparently, the land was owned by Moses Pattee from 1837 to 1860, even though Josiah Heath, Emeline Heath's grandfather, is shown here on the 1858 map. In any case, Heath bought from Pattee in 1860, but sold out to his cousin, E. Prescott Bennett of Gilead, in 1866. Thereafter, the farm remained in the hands of the Bennett family until 1903 when George H. Bennett sold it to Arthur F. Morrill of Mason. Later owners included George Morrill, Fritz Tyler, Myron Morrill, Donald Morrill, Harold Rolfe, and O'Neil Mills, the present owner. On July 8, 1941, Myron and Viola Morrill granted an easement to the Portland Pipeline Company. A portion of the barn foundation remains at the north edge of the Pipeline right-of-way.

Returning to the Grover Hill Road, one soon arrives at a sharp right-hand turn which, years ago, was where the road to Albany (mentioned above in connection with the Seavey property) branched off to the left. Above the turn is a small house now owned by Jesse and Kim Conley, and built around 1959 on the site of a much earlier farmstead destroyed by fire the previous year. This older residence,

once the home to three generations of Heaths, is better known today as the former home of the Mundt family, who resided here for over fifty years in this century.

A deed recorded in 1839 gives the sale of this property from Uriah Holt of Albany to Daniel G. Holt of Bethel. Daniel Holt may have erected part of the original buildings, which were sold to Tilton B. Heath in 1854. The farm eventually passed to Tilton's son, Jonathan R. Heath, and later to Jonathan's brother, Isaac Cutting Heath. During the 1880s and 1890s the *Norway Advertiser* ran a weekly column entitled "Heath's Corner," which contained news about the families who resided on this end of the Grover Hill Road. In 1893 the Heath property was acquired by Edwin C. Rowe and sold a few years later to Fred A. Mundt, who retained it until his son-in-law, Clayton Mills, took over ownership in 1952. Fred and Bertha Mundt had seven children: Bertha, Alice, James, Malcolm, George, Ernest, and Margaret. George Mundt was killed in World War I, and the local American Legion Post carries his name; Alice Mundt was, until her recent death, a leading authority on oriental art and had worked for many years at the Worcester Art Museum; and Ernest Mundt was long a Society member until his death a short while ago. Of a fire here in 1958, the *Bethel Citizen* stated:

The summer home of Mrs. Charlotte Whalen of Somerville, Mass., was nearly destroyed by fire last Friday evening. Household furnishings on the ground floor were saved, but all on the second floor, including many treasured books and antiques, were lost. The barn, connecting shed, and most of the house were destroyed.

From the former Heath/Mundt site, the Grover Hill Road travels in an almost straight line west to the "four corners," where it joins roads leading to Albany, Mason, and West Bethel. Just across the East Branch of the Pleasant River, on the left, is a small cottage owned by Walter Cragin of Westbrook, Maine, and built sometime around 1965. Deeds extend this property's history back to at least 1875, when Daniel Holt, mentioned above, sold it to Clarissa W. Baird. A deed dated October 1896 also mentions land and buildings. Census records indicate that the James Uhlman family was residing somewhere in this vicinity in 1910, though exactly where their house stood is presently unknown. We do know, from the memories of local residents, that the Uhlman house was in the vicinity of the "four corners" and that James Uhlman's children were Nina Uhlman Crouse and Forrest Uhlman. (Nina was the mother of the late Erlon Crouse, mentioned earlier in this paper). Forrest Uhlman moved to Sanford, Maine, and James and wife later joined him there. After James's wife died, he returned to Bethel, where he lived with his daughter, Nina, until his death (he and his wife are buried in Sanford).

On the opposite side of the road and nearly to the corner is a yellow mobile home owned by Charles ("Chuck") Haines. In 1871 Thomas Stearns, Gwen Stearns' grandfather, sold fourteen acres here to Edward Payson Grover. No doubt this was one of the "meadow lots" that changed hands so frequently on this end of the Grover Hill Road. In 1925 the property passed to Adrian L. Grover, Edward's son, and in 1984 Michael Wheeler acquired it from the estate of Hazel Wheeler, Adrian Grover's daughter. Charles and Kelly Haines purchased the property from Michael and Nina Wheeler.

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As this brief survey has hopefully demonstrated, much of interest has occurred during the history of the Grover Hill area. For over two centuries the road has witnessed the comings and goings of some of Bethel's most successful farm families; today it is still an attractive rural setting in which to live. Although this article touches upon the histories of more than forty sites along the road, much remains to be learned about this fascinating district in the western part of Bethel.

BOOK REVIEW

A HISTORY OF BETHEL, MAINE by Nathaniel Tuckerman True, edited by Randall H. Bennett. (Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, 1994). 211 pp., paper, \$23.50.

Dr. True's *History of Bethel* is valued and entertaining. Randall H. Bennett has edited it with meticulous professionalism; his introduction is a useful overview of Dr. True's life and his many contributions to early Maine history, natural history and culture. As Mr. Bennett points out, Dr. William B. Lapham in his standard Bethel *History* was dependent on Dr. True's work for a great deal (he used Dr. True's papers without attribution) and therefore for readers familiar with the Lapham history there is inevitable repetition. Most of Dr. Lapham's best stories of the early days appear to have come from Dr. True. We owe Randall H. Bennett much for having rescued from the somewhat disorganized True papers this coherent tale of earliest Bethel. The True articles in *The Bethel Courier* appeared from 1859 to 1861.

Not only did Dr. True have the advantage of being much nearer to his subject matter than Dr. Lapham, he also had a livelier mind. In the True *History* there is material which is not in Dr. Lapham's, notably on the Indians of early Maine in which Dr. True was deeply interested. And there are Dr. True's personal observations on Bethel and its citizens to add interest. I found only one section of the True account tedious, i.e. the long passage on Professor Locke (pp. 122-159) with whom Dr. True shared many intellectual interests.

Without Dr. True's pursuit of the stories of the early Bethel settlers still living at the time he wrote, and their descendants who could pass on tales from their childhood, we would have scant knowledge of Bethel's first seventy-five years. He does include documents and such manuscripts as Lt. Segar's story of the Indian Raid, but his general descriptions from his own knowledge add much. He writes, for example, that the serious minded lawyer William Frye "was never seen lounging around the stores or public places," thus telling us indirectly that a good many other well-known citizens, including himself, did in fact spend much of their time hanging around gossiping, telling yarns and talking politics. From such conversations Dr. True drew much of his information.

Scattered throughout the book are nuggets which give fascinating glimpses of 18th and 19th century Bethel. He reports that the earliest settlers often saw fleets of Indian canoes passing up and down the Androscoggin while the Indians practiced shooting ducks on the wing. One winter, he says, two men together killed sixty moose; in 1861 up Wild River 100 deer were killed although Dr. True found that deer were only seen "occasionally." The loup cervier

(lynx) was still abundant at the time he wrote. Occasionally a sable was seen. He also reports that there were rattlesnakes in Albany.

Obviously Dr. Lapham's *History* remains the basic book for students of Bethel's past because of its inclusiveness. Dr. True, however, is less ponderous and in the long run more memorable.

Margaret Joy Tibbetts

IN MEMORIAM

Died, July 8, 1994, Philip H. Chadbourne, Bethel, life member of the Society since 1971.

Died, August 12, 1994, Horton W. Emerson, Jr., contributing member of the Society since 1983.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Persis Suddeth, Bowie, MD

Muriel Whitney, Bethel

Gloria Wilson, Bethel

The Bethel corn shop has finished canning and the labelers have begun work. The acreage was less this year than usual, but all of the corn was first class. Thirty-six thousand gallons were canned. Everything will be in readiness to care for a much larger quantity next year and it is hoped that success of the present year will encourage the farmers to give a larger acreage in the future.

OXFORD DEMOCRAT, 2 October 1906

EDITOR'S CORNER

This issue records the death of Society member Horton W. Emerson, Jr. of Gorham, Maine, who died this summer. I hope readers of the *COURIER* will forgive a personal note. Bill Emerson was one of the central figures in my undergraduate education and one of those who advanced my interest in history. A native of Blue Hill, he graduated from Colby College and received his Ph.D. in American Studies at Yale. I had him as a teacher my freshman year at what is today the University of Southern Maine. A modest, soft-spoken man, he could decimate with his rapier wit and often disabling sarcasm, anyone whom he considered getting a little too confident. Through four years he was my academic adviser and friend. I visited him regularly and we enjoyed wide-ranging discussions on many subjects. I also had him for several courses and seminars, all of which I found an experience with his ironic humor and penetrating insights. For about a decade, he loyally belonged to the Society and visited Bethel on a number of occasions with his wife Anne. It was always good to see the Emersons and renew our ties. I will miss him a great deal. It doesn't seem possible that he is gone, but his influence on me and numerous others whom he touched so deeply will continue for years to come.

SRH

REFLECTIONS OF A HALF CENTURY

(continued from the last issue)

by Leslie E. Davis

I haven't said too much for a while about our automobiles, but in 1927 I bought a brand new Ford four door sedan and I traded every year from 1927 to 1936 for a new model Ford 4 door sedan, but after I had the trouble with my back in 1935 I thought it best to try something heavier to see if I could be more comfortable with all the riding I had to do. I traded my 1935 Ford for a 1935 Packard in the summer of 1936, and it did help. In the fall of 1936 we had a rather bad accident with it on the road between Norway and Oxford one night. We were in a collision with another Packard going the opposite way and both cars were badly damaged on the left side. We got it repaired and in the summer of 1937 I traded it off for a new Packard Sedan. I remember that the price of this brand new 1937 Packard six cylinder 4 door sedan with a heater was \$985 delivered in Lewiston (no sales tax).

I traded again for the same model new in 1939 and also in 1941 but I kept the 1941 Packard 6 years as we were in World War II by 1943 and no new cars were available except by special authority.

In 1947 we traded the Packard for a 1946 Buick and have had Buicks since that time.

After Rita finished working for me as a bookkeeper Mary Clough took the job over and she was also a very satisfactory secretary. She held the job until she left to be married to Rufus Rice in 1940 or 1941.

Christie Thurston was our next secretary and a very good one. We had her for two or three years until she married Eddie Knight from Rumford.

(Editor's Note: Mr. Davis is confused here. Mary Clough was employed after Christie Thurston, who worked for him from 1939 to 1942. This information was gained from them this year (1994).]

Our next secretary was already married and has stayed

with us up to the present time (1958). This of course is Stephanie Thurston and we hope she stays as long as we need one. *(Editor's Note: Stephanie Thurston worked for the L. E. Davis Lumber Company until her retirement in the early 1980s.)*

(to be continued in the next issue)

THE BETHEL SOLDIERS OF '61

From the pages of the OXFORD COUNTY ADVERTISER, 14 May, 1886, compiled by Judge C. F. Whitman of Norway. Editor's Note: In this section, Whitman defends his account from criticism by William B. Lapham on the origins of Sudbury Canada and the birthplace of Henry S. Needham.

In a former article it was stated that Bethel was anciently called "Sudbury Canada" because "the original proprietors were principally from Sudbury in Massachusetts and the new township was located somewhere near Canada." Also that Henry S. Needham killed at Baltimore was a native of Bethel. The former statement is a literal quotation from the historical address of Dr. N. T. True at the Bethel Centennial in 1874. My authority for the latter statement is that several Bethel parties so informed the writer when collecting material for these articles and the following taken from the "Bethel Courier" in its issue of May 3, 1861: After giving a Baltimore dispatch of the manner of the soldier being wounded it says, "since the above was put in type we have received the following from the Lawrence, Mass. Journal: 'Mr. Needham was born in Bethel, Maine . . . and was thirty-three years of age the 2nd of March last. He came to Lawrence some twelve years ago and of late years has been engaged in the lathing business in connection with his brothers Charles M. and Otis S. Needham. He has a mother, two brothers and a sister living in Bethel, Maine, and a young wife residing at No. 41 Atlantic Corporation and brothers and sisters in this city to mourn his untimely death.' After mentioning some resolu-

(continued on back page)

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(Bethel Soldiers of '61, continued from page 11)

tions passed by a Universalist society at Lawrence, of which he was a member, the "Courier" further says: "Mr. Needham has a mother, three brothers and a sister belonging in Bethel. He was a son of Evi Needham. At a meeting at the Bethel Rifle Guards on Wednesday evening it was resolved that Bethel accepts the honor of giving birth to one who was among the first to sacrifice his life on the altar of his country in her struggle to sustain the Union. Resolved, that the death of S. Henry Needham, a native of Bethel by the hands of a mob at Baltimore while marching to the defense of the capital, will serve to strengthen our patriotism and make us doubly strong in defending the stars and stripes which have so long waved over us for our protection." It will thus be seen that my statement was substantially true as affecting Bethel sentiment and Bethel action at that time, which was the reason of its being mentioned in that connection. It should not be supposed that in these matters we can be more accurate than Bethel parties themselves. Nor can we aim at absolute accuracy in newspaper articles of this kind. To those who might consider it proper to say that it is sometimes difficult to separate truth from error as there is often conflicting statements of the same event. This is particularly true of things happening in battle for reasons that are apparent and needless to mention. In the statement of the death of one of the Norway soldiers at Cedar Creek several different accounts were given me while writing "Norway in the War." One saw him leap up a number of feet when the bullet struck him. Another saw him simply throw up his hands and fall. A third caught him in his arms when he fell, while a fourth denied this latter statement, saying that the third party wasn't in the fight at all.

(continued in the next issue)

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The second annual Community Picnic on the Fourth of July was held on the grounds of the Dr. Moses Mason House. Following remarks by Society Trustee Chairman Margaret Joy Tibbetts on her memories of the Fourth in the 1920s and 1930s, the Portland Brass Quintet (photo above) gave a concert. Their appearance was made possible in part through the support of the Maine Arts Commission and the Mahoosuc Arts Council.

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